

newsline extra

A Missouri State Library news service

August 22, 2005

Newsline Extra features time-sensitive information about State Library programs and current news of interest to the Missouri library community.

REMINDER: Input needed on Missouri's LSTA grant program

The State Library recently announced a new survey to help assess the effectiveness of Missouri Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant programs. **The [online survey](#) closes this Friday, August 26**, and we would like to encourage as many libraries as possible to complete the survey and help us meet your needs.

LSTA funds may be used for two major purposes: 1) technology and information access, and 2) targeted library services for special clientele. State libraries may use LSTA funds to support statewide initiatives and services. They also may distribute the funds through grants or cooperative agreements to public, academic, research, school, and special libraries in their state.

We want to ensure we fund programs that best meet Missouri library needs. The survey asks your opinion of the current grants and statewide projects. We also want your suggestions for new programs to address library needs. The target audience for the survey includes library staff and public library trustees. Please encourage all library staff who work with LSTA or other grant programs to participate.

The survey is available at: <http://www.sos.mo.gov/library/development/LSTASurvey>.

Your participation in this survey is greatly appreciated. The survey results will be reported in *Newsline* and will also be presented at a meeting of the Secretary's Council on Library Development in September. The results will be used to shape the LSTA program for FY2007 and beyond.

Please contact Diana Very at 800-325-0131, ext. 16 or diana.very@sos.mo.gov if you have questions about the survey.

YA guru Patrick Jones to present workshop in Topeka

Patrick Jones will be presenting a full-day workshop on Monday, October 17, 2005, at the Ramada Inn in Topeka, Kansas. Jones is one of the country's best-known young adult librarians, whose nonfiction book, *Connecting Young Adults and Libraries*, is the textbook for most young adult classes in library schools.

The Northeast Kansas Library System (NEKLS) is organizing the session. The cost for NEKLS libraries is \$30 per person, and \$60 for non-system registrants. The workshop fee includes lunch. Seating is limited, so early registration is recommended. For information or to register, contact the NEKLS office at (785) 838-4090, fax (785) 838-3989, or e-mail Carolyn Little at clittle@nekls.org.

New grant program targets students with low reading levels

The Department of Education recently announced the [Striving Readers program](#), a new discretionary grant program designed to raise the reading achievement levels of middle and high school students. The program specifically targets Title I-eligible schools with significant numbers of students reading below grade level.

Grant funds can be used to support new comprehensive reading initiatives or expansion of existing initiatives that improve the quality of literacy instruction across the curriculum. Reading initiatives can also provide intensive literacy interventions to struggling adolescent readers or help to build a strong, scientific research base for identifying and replicating strategies that improve adolescent literacy skills.

An estimated \$24 million will be awarded through the Striving Readers program to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) that have schools that are 1) eligible to receive funds under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and 2) serve students in one or more grades in grades 6 through 12.

The awards will range from \$1 million to \$5 million. The deadline for submitting a notice of intent to apply is September 14, 2005, and the deadline for submitting applications is November 14, 2005.

More information about the Striving Readers program can be found on the program's Web site, <http://www.ed.gov/programs/strivingreaders/index.html>.

Jewish Literature programming grant available

Applications are still available for the final round of "[Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature – Identity and Imagination](#)," an initiative awarding grants to public and academic libraries across the country to host scholar-led book discussion programs on four themes exploring Jewish literature and culture. Since the launch of this three-year project, 100 libraries have received grants to these programs.

"Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature – Identity and Imagination" aims to expand audiences for Jewish literature nationwide and recruit new libraries to present "Let's Talk About It" programming. Each participating library will receive a \$1,500 grant, training, and program and promotional materials to present a five-part series based on one of the four themes. The series must be open to public audiences and feature reading and discussion programs led by a local scholar and supporting materials developed by the American Library Association and Nextbook.

For applications and additional information, visit the www.ala.org/publicprograms or www.nextbook.org/ala. The final application deadline is September 30, 2005.

To be placed on the e-mail list to receive *Newsline Extra* or to unsubscribe, contact the Missouri State Library at 800-325-0131, ext. 8, or e-mail holly.dentner@sos.mo.gov.

Newsline Extra will be archived for six months on the State Library's Web site at http://www.sos.mo.gov/library/newsline_extra/.

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